

# **COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN**

## **Pedestrian Access and Mobility**



**Town Center Village Board**  
**October 11, 2006**

# COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Purpose

Background

Guiding Principles

Planning Process

Implementation

# Background



**Little Patuxent/Gov Warfield  
Circa 1971**



**Movement Through Nature  
93 Miles of Pathway**



**Little Patuxent Parkway  
Grade Separated Connection**



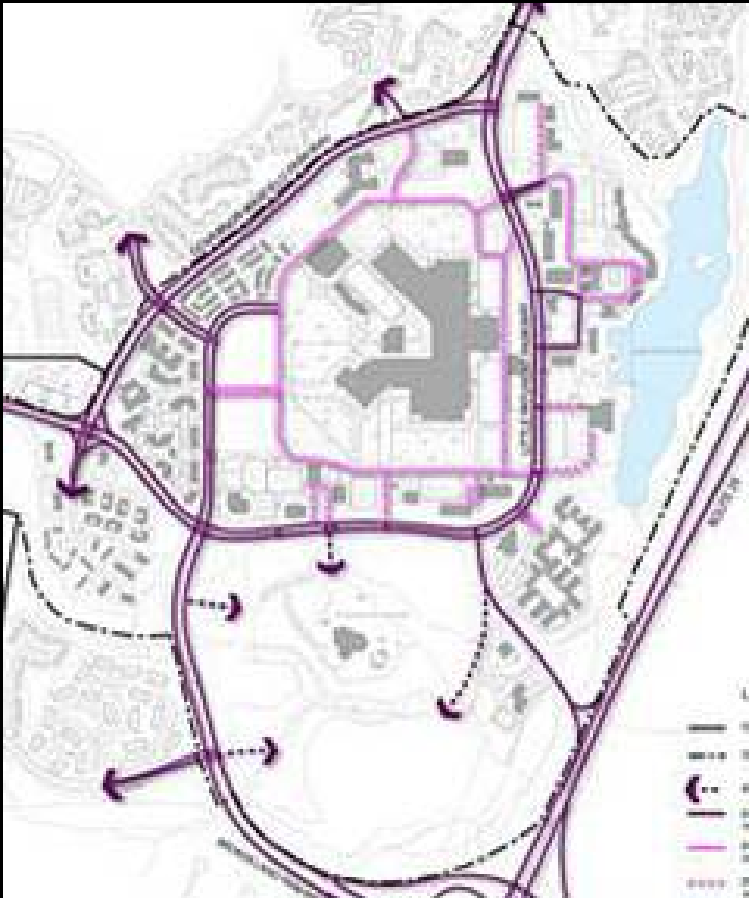
**GGP- Town Hall Meeting: Walkable Place Appeal**



**Downtown Charrette: Connectivity**

# Background – GGP Draft Master Plan

**Public and Private  
Street Network**



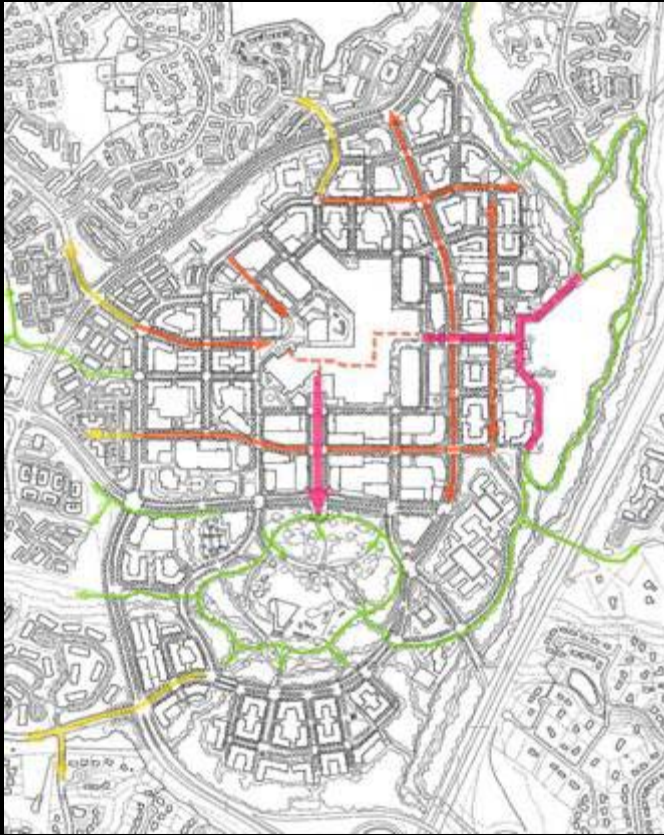
**Continuous Sidewalks  
Appropriately Scaled**









# Background – Charrette & Master Plan



## Pedestrian Connections



## Street Framework



-  Promenade
-  Sidewalk Lined by Areas with Shops
-  Sidewalk Connections
-  Paths

-  Primary Pedestrian Streets
-  Areas where retail activity is likely to be concentrated

# **Guiding Principles**

- 1. Solutions Unique to Columbia**
- 2. Compliance with ADA**
- 3. Embrace At-Grade Movements Along Vehicular Ways and Facilities**
- 4. Understand Existing and Future Pedestrian Attractors/Generators**
- 5. Appropriate Treatments Based on Character of Land Use, Street, and Intersection**
- 6. Provision of Support for Non-Vehicular Travel**

# Design Vocabulary – Pedestrian Components



Sidewalk

Ramp

Crosswalk

Stop Bar



Signal

Median Refuge

Crosswalk

Stop Bar

Free Right & Island



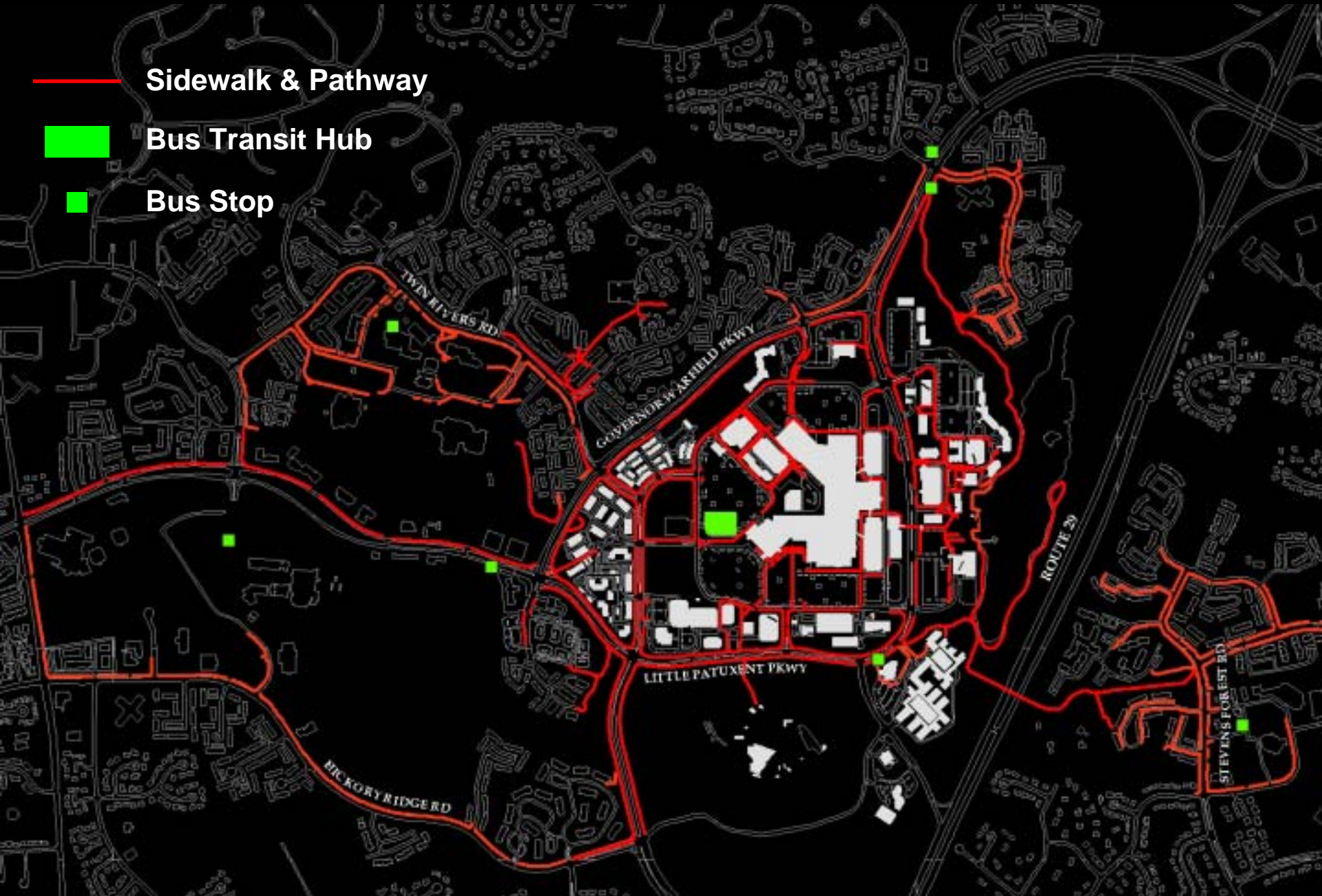


# Existing Pedestrian Connections

Sidewalk & Pathway

Bus Transit Hub

Bus Stop





# Sidewalks – Location and Standards

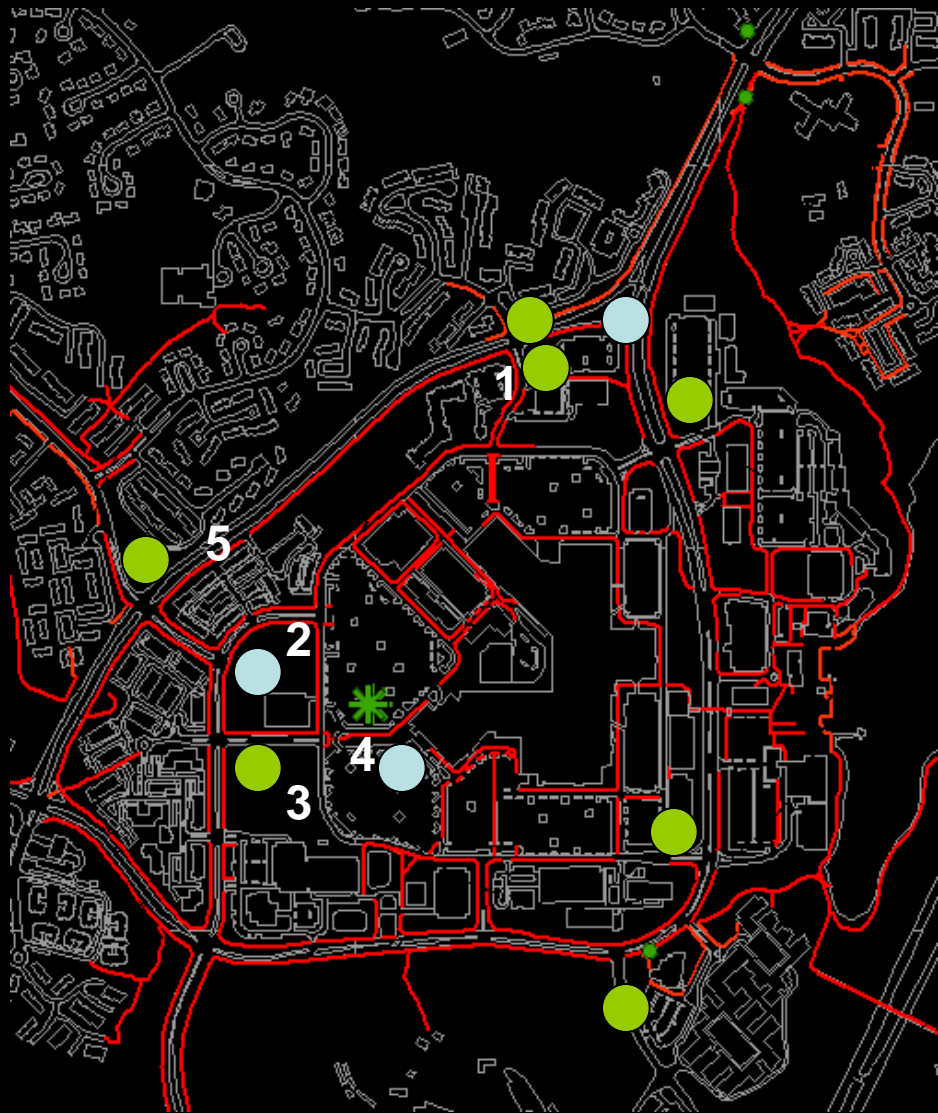


**Windstream Drive and Governor Warfield Parkway**

## Facility Standards

1. Width
  - 4' min
  - 5' prefer
2. Against Curb
3. Green Buffer Against Curb
4. Connectivity
  - Continuous
  - Both Sides
  - One Side
  - Neither Side

# Sidewalks – Location and Standards



- Missing Sidewalk
- Dirt Pathway



1  
Too Narrow w/  
Obstruction -  
Windstream Dr &  
GWP to Ring Rd



3  
Missing Link-  
Town Center Ave  
to Ring Road



4  
Missing -  
Transit Hub Hill



2  
Worn Dirt Path -  
Twin Rivers & BLP  
to Ring Rd



5  
Missing -  
Twin Rivers Rd



# Curb Ramps – Character and Function



**Twin Rivers Road and Governor Warfield Parkway  
to Broken Land Parkway**



**Misaligned Ramps**

# Curb Ramps

## Character and Function



Northern Intersection of Wincopin Circle



# Pedestrian Crosswalks and Refuge

## Location and Character



**Broken Land Parkway and Little Patuxent Parkway**

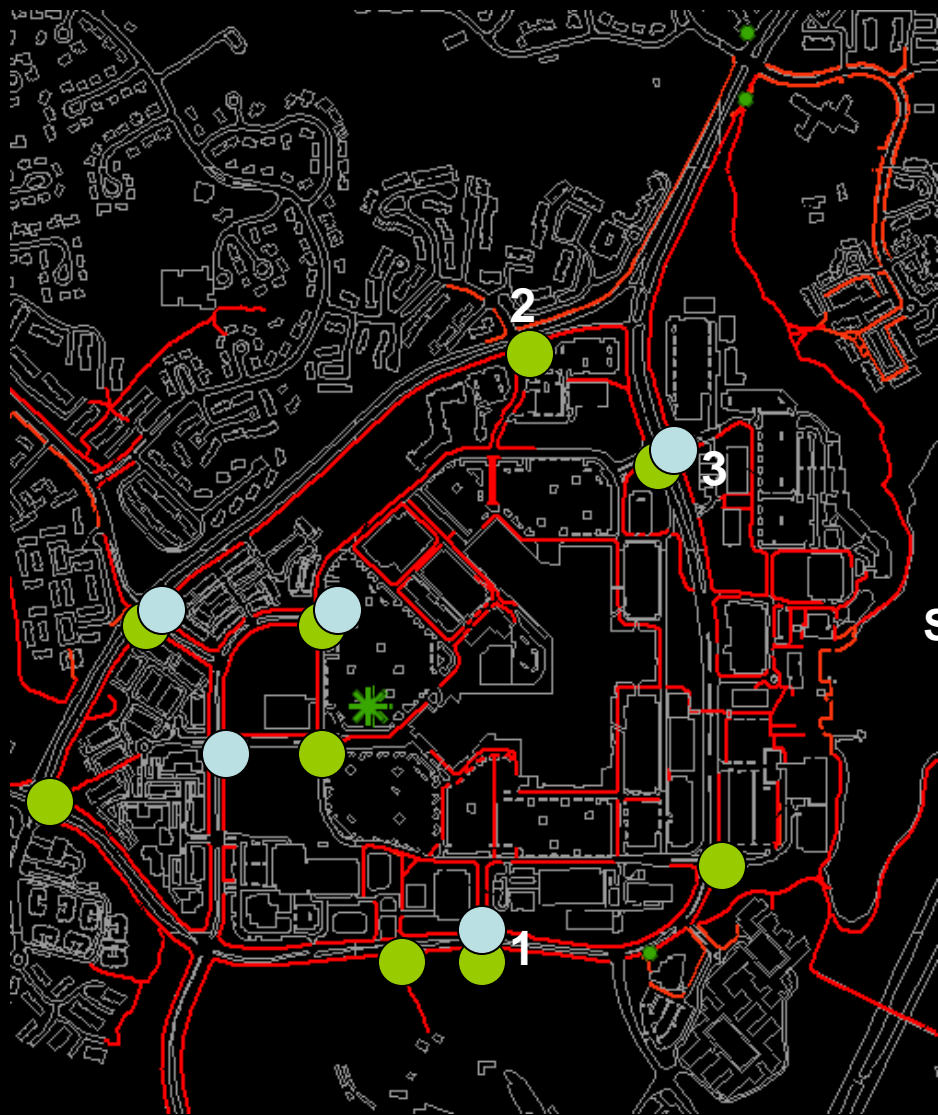


**Missing Connection**



**Cohesive Crossing**

# Pedestrian Refuge Areas



- Missing Refuge
- Modification to Existing Refuge



No Refuge  
Symphony Woods & LPP



No Crosswalk  
Windstream Dr  
& GWP



Refuge Obstructed by Cars  
Sterrett PI & LPP



# Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

## Location and Utility

Visual: pedestrian countdown signals with self actuating pushbutton

Audible: visually impaired- tone or speech



**Town Center Avenue and  
Broken Land Parkway**



**Signal Pushbutton  
Town Center Ave & BLP**



**Countdown Signal  
S. Entrance Rd & LPP**



**LPP & BLP**



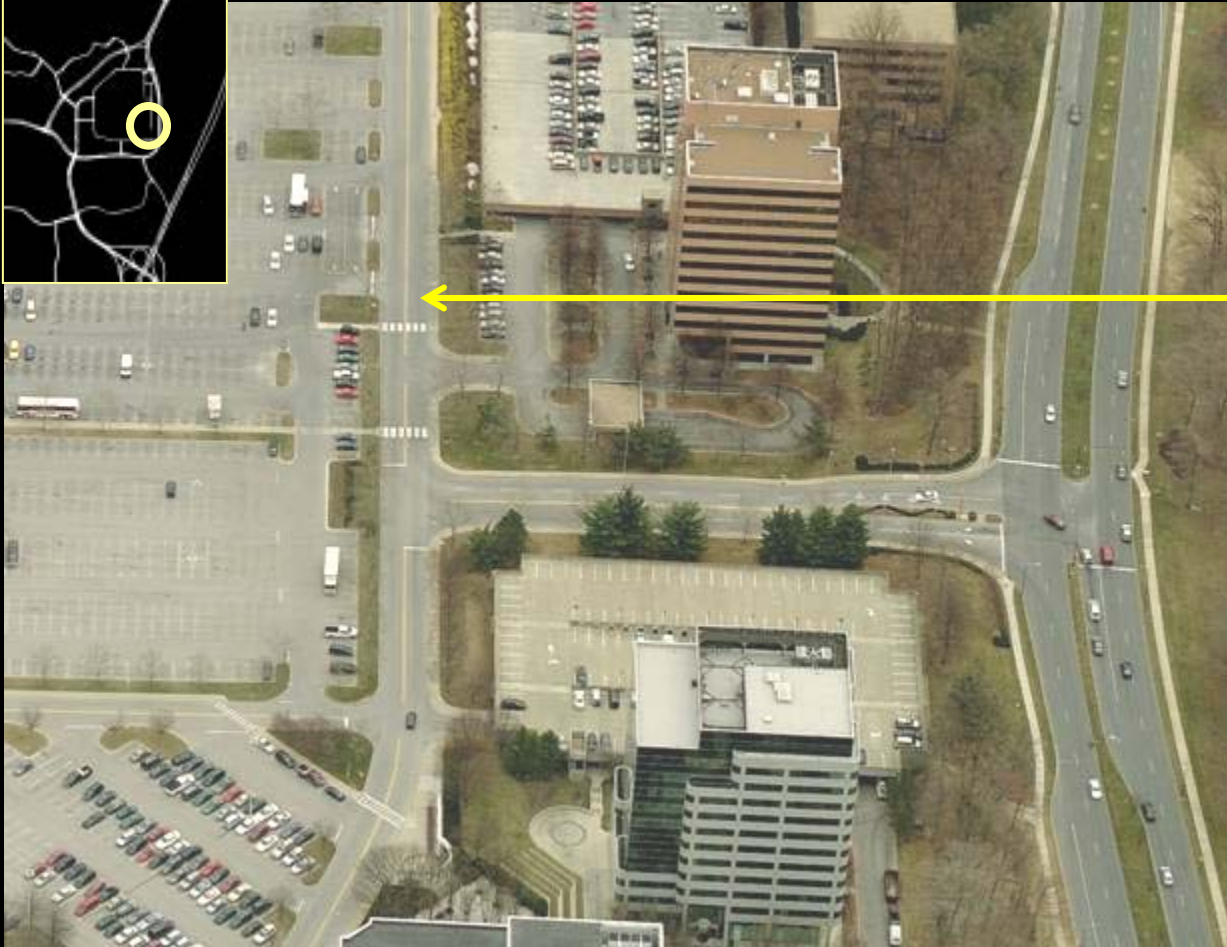
**Twin Rivers**



**Space Allowance  
& Reach**

# Pedestrian Signage

## Type and Location



**Pole Mounted Signs**

**Symphony Woods and Little Patuxent Parkway at Ring Road**



# Pedestrian Signage

## Type and Location



Ring Road from Rear of AMC Cinema to Broken Land Parkway



Signs for Drivers, not Pedestrians

# Pedestrian Signals and Signage

## Type and Location



**Flexible In-Street Sign**



**In-Pavement Crosswalk Lights**



**Marked Crossing**



**Detectable  
Warning Surface**

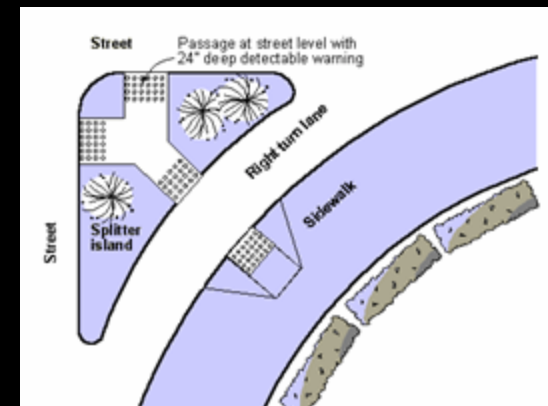


# Free Right Medians

## Location and Function



**Governor Warfield Parkway and  
Little Patuxent Parkway at Banneker Road**



**Pedestrian Passage  
at Free Right**



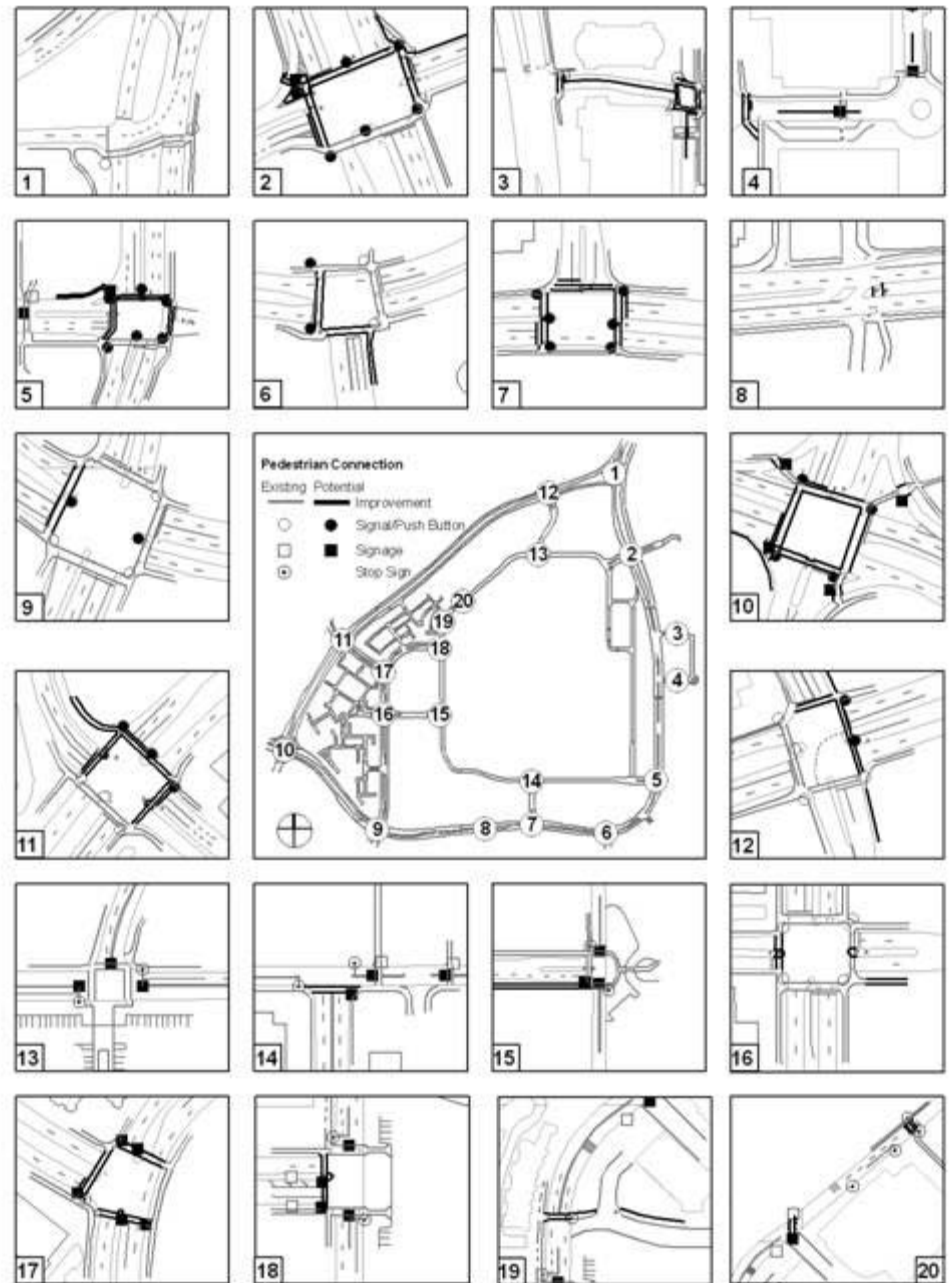
**No Connection  
LPP & Ring Rd**



**No Relationship to Sidewalk  
LPP & Sterrett PI**

# Planning Process

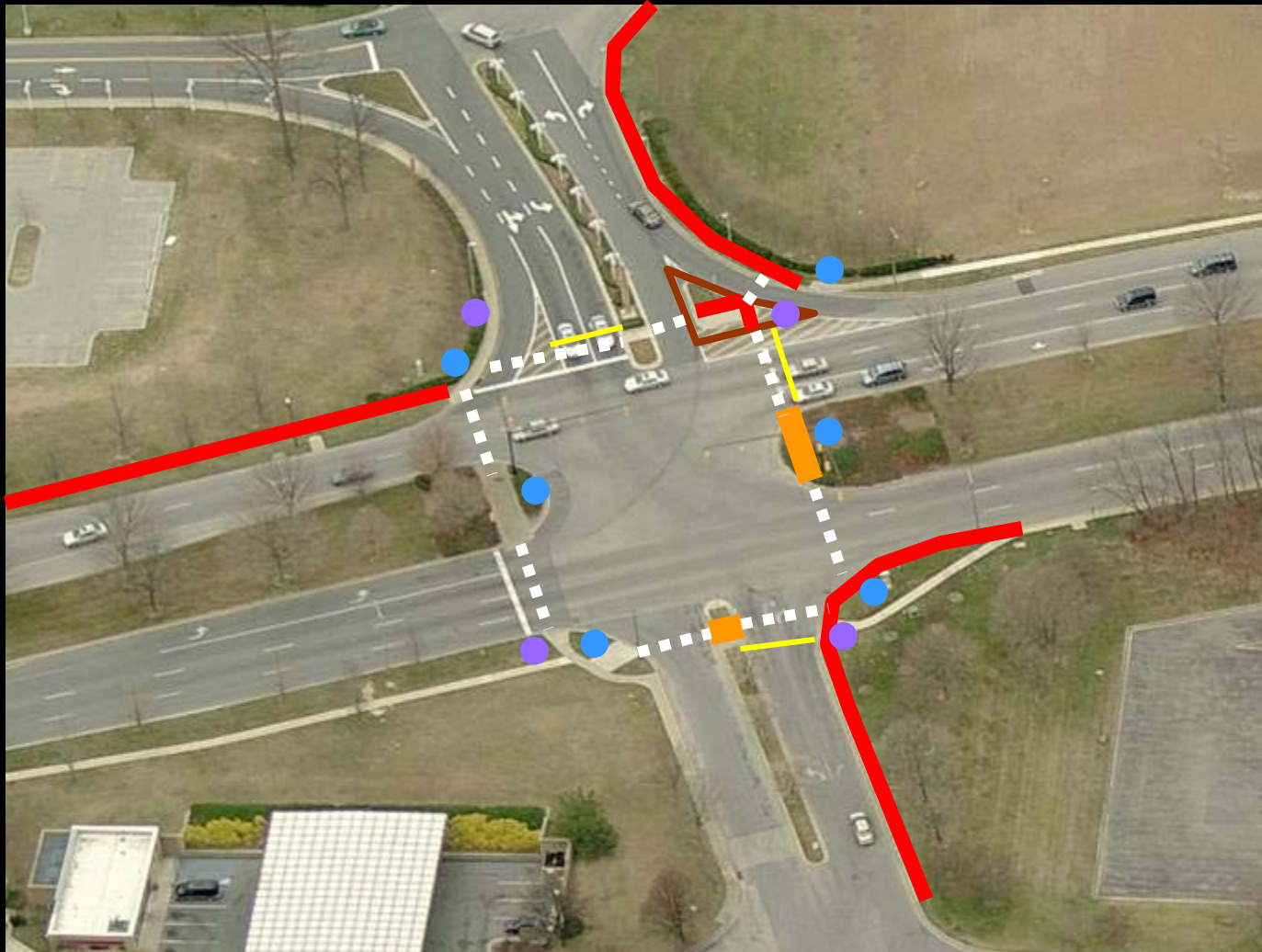
- Inventory
  - 20 Intersections
  - Existing components
- Analysis
  - Missing components
  - Matrix of elements
  - Feasibility and cost
- Priority Projects
  - Safety
  - Location & use
- Public Review



Existing Intersection and Sidewalk Inventory



# Potential Improvements – Before & After



Sterrett Place and Little Patuxent Parkway

Free Right

Sidewalk

Refuge

Crosswalk

Stop Bar

Signal

Sign

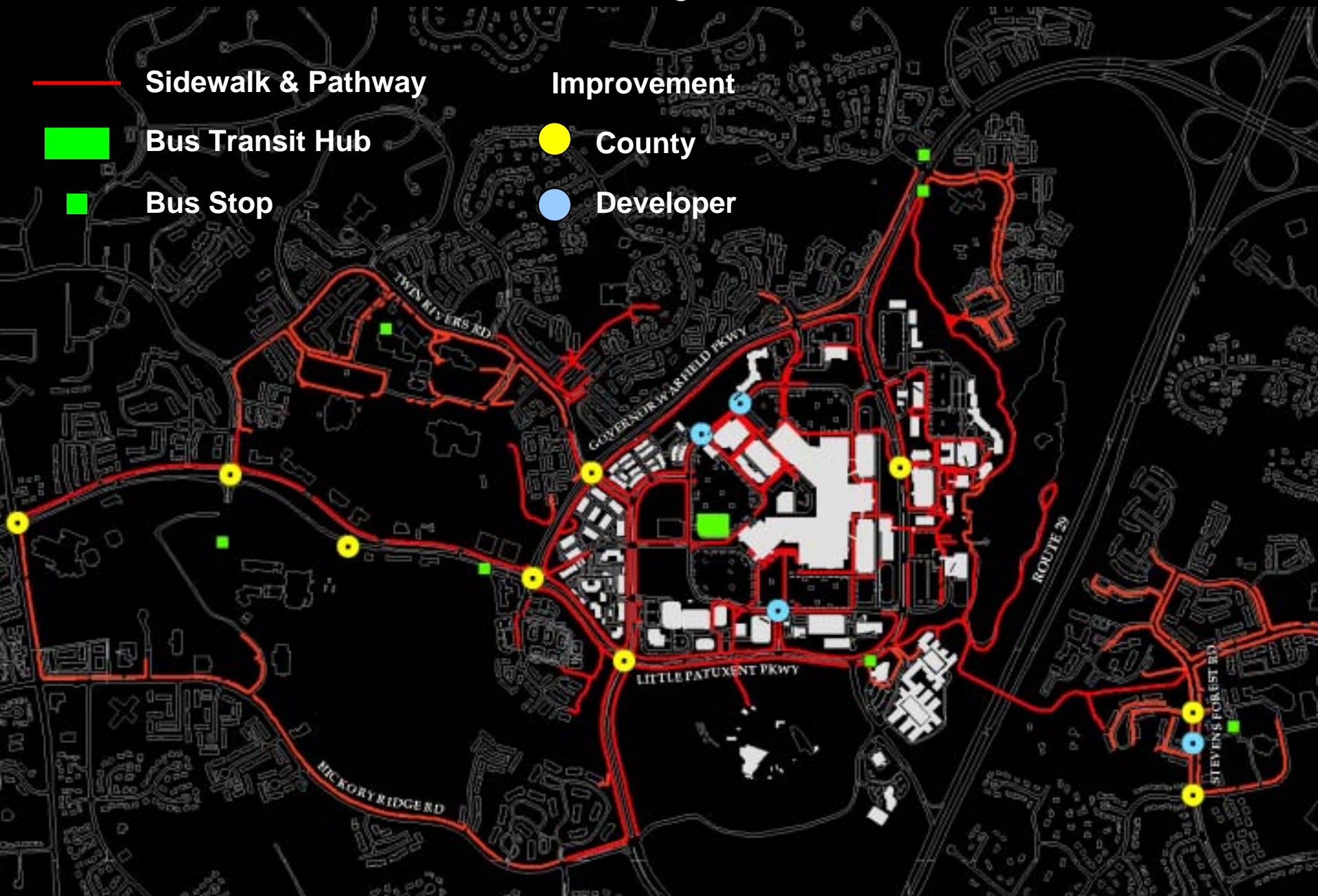
# Implementation Near and Long Term

- **Public**
  - County Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Columbia Downtown Master Plan
  - Design Guidelines
  - Capital Budget
- **Private**
  - New Development and Redevelopment
- **Downtown Partnership**





# Near Term Pedestrian Projects



# Further Information

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/>

- **Howard County Pedestrian Plan**

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/Transportation/dpz\\_transportation\\_planning.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/Transportation/dpz_transportation_planning.htm)

- **Columbia Downtown Master Plan**

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/columbiadowntown/>

- **FY 2008 Capital Budget**

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/DPW\\_HomePage.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/DPW_HomePage.htm)